

# KANSANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Kansans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Kansas. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Kansas.*

## **INCOME: KANSANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Kansas was \$ 45,146.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Kansas was \$ 42,233, a significant drop of 6.5 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN KANSAS CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Kansas had 286,000 adults without insurance, (10.8 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Kansas had 290,000 adults without insurance, (10.8 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Kansas had 47,323 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN KANSAS**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Kansas was \$6,650.<sup>6</sup> In 2005, it was \$9,397, a 41 percent increase.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Kansas was \$15,627.<sup>8</sup> In 2005, it was \$19,736, a 26 percent increase.<sup>9</sup>
- Number of Kansans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 39,948<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Kansans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 32,704<sup>11</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR KANSAS RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Kansas was \$1.369 a gallon.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Kansas is \$2.198 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Kansas was \$1,685.<sup>14</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Kansas is \$2,705, \$1,020 (60.6 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: KANSANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Kansas – 447,140<sup>16</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Kansas – \$898<sup>17</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: KANSANS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Kansans killed in Iraq – 25<sup>18</sup>
- Number of Kansans wounded in Iraq – 251<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Kansans killed in Afghanistan – 5<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Kansans wounded in Afghanistan – 14<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Kansas – 246,359<sup>22</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING KANSAS'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 182 estates in Kansas paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>23</sup>
- Only 58 estates in Kansas will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>24</sup>
- In contrast, 105,000 workers in Kansas would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.<sup>25</sup>

## **CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING**

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$8,095,409<sup>26</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$1,246,726<sup>27</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST KANSANS**

### **The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Kansans.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Kansas residents each received an average of \$2,500 in tax cuts, while middle class Kansas residents received only \$409.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Kansas residents will receive an average of \$32,957 in tax cuts, while middle class Kansas residents will only receive \$776.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Kansas residents will each receive an average of \$66,345 in tax cuts, while middle class Kansas residents will only receive \$885.<sup>30</sup>

### **The richest Kansans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Kansans received 5.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.8 percent of the tax cut.<sup>31</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Kansans will get 23.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>32</sup>

- And, in 2010, the richest Kansans will get 43.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.7 percent of the tax cut.<sup>33</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Kansans.**

- In 2010, the richest Kansans will receive an average of \$9,278 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Kansans will be getting over 44.6 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>34</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Kansans will receive an average of \$63 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 6.1 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>35</sup>

### **SOURCES**

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- 6: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
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